

Public Notice – Environmental Cleanup Plan

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy announce a public meeting to develop a draft water quality cleanup plan (Implementation Plan) for Callahan Creek in Wise County. The agencies invite public participation and comments for the purpose of reducing pollutants to Callahan Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: January 20, 2011 to February 21, 2011

PUBLIC MEETING: Appalachia Civic Center, 142 Cold Spring Drive on January 20, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather that causes closure of public schools, the meeting will be held on January 31, 2011.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: This is the initial public meeting on development of a watershed cleanup plan (Implementation Plan).

DESCRIPTION OF CLEANUP PLAN: DEQ has developed a total maximum daily load study, or a TMDL, for Callahan Creek in Wise County, Virginia. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a stream can contain and still meet water quality standards. The stream has bacteria contamination that threatens human health and sediment and total dissolved solids contamination that has harmed the aquatic life in the stream. To restore water quality, contamination levels need to be reduced to the recommended TMDL amounts. The cleanup plan will define ways to reduce pollutant loading to the watershed. The approved TMDL report may be found at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/TMDLDataSearch/ReportSearch.aspx>.

The Callahan Creek “impaired” stream segment includes about 5.1 miles of streams in the watershed. The length of Callahan Creek parallel Callahan Avenue and Stonega Road from its confluence with Possum Trot Hollow downstream to the Powell River is included parallel Callahan Avenue and Stonega Road. The TMDL study identifies bacteria as the stressor for primary contact recreation and sediment and conductivity/total dissolved solids as the stressors for aquatic life problems. Reductions in bacteria, sedimentation and conductivity/total dissolved solids are necessary so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice. Additionally, information on implementation plans and how they are developed is available at the DEQ website.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Allen J. Newman, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688; Phone: (276) 676-4804; E-mail: Allen.Newman@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (276) 676-4899.